

**Oswald S. Copeland,
5458 Endicott Lane,
Columbia, Md. 21044
August 4th, 2008.**

Re:

**Jennifer J. Johnson,
Secretary,
Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System
20th Street & Constitution Ave.
N. W. Wash. D. C. 20551**

Dear Mrs. Johnson. I am making my feeling known concerning this “tricky” system used by banks to charge large amounts of overdraft fees.

I use my Bankcard as a credit card, not as a debit card. Not that I do not have money in the bank, but instead of writing a check, I punch or say to the cashier, “credit”, which gives me a day or two before my account is debited. I am being charged \$34 for buying \$10 of gas! This is ghastly; and I have had my account with Provident Bank of Maryland for over 25 years. This month my account is arrears of over \$400, and being charged \$5 per day if I do not settle. I have until August 18th, 2008 to settle, or my account will be closed.

If I deposit an out of State check at my bank it takes 2 days before that check is cleared. In the meantime a transaction may come in, like a \$10 purchase; the bank’s computers are programmed not to hold for 2 days but to charge me that \$34. If I had overdraft protection, there is this convoluted “trick” where \$100 is charged to your overdraft, therefore the concept is to the advantage of the bank and not in anyway helpful to the consumer.

On the bank's website, no corporate officer is named; one must go through a receptionist at a branch, or Customer Service, thus insulating Mr. Peter Martin and company from ever having to know the pain being inflicted on the millions of customers like myself. Customer Service needs to be put back in banking. This is competing with the greed of the Oil Companies, "pay, or die paying".

Enclosed is an Article I read today in USA, TODAY, about this practice. Also copies of the overdraft fees charged me last month, let alone June.

Sincerely,


Oswald S. Copeland.

Cc:

**Peter M. Martin CEO,
Provident Bank of Maryland
114 E. Lexington St.
Balto. Md. 21202**

Monday, August 4, 2008

Moneyline

day markets

	Close	Change
Dow Jones industrial	11,326.32	↓ 51.70
for the week		↓ 44.37
TODAY Internet 50	131.01	↓ 0.63
Business 25	103.40	↓ 0.20
Consumer 25	222.24	↓ 2.12
Mag composite	2310.96	↓ 14.59
S&P 500	1260.31	↓ 7.07
10-year yield	4.56%	↓ 0.02
30-year yield	3.94%	↓ 0.01
3-mo. discount rate	1.63%	↓ 0.01
1 oz. Comex	\$909.00	↓ 4.90
Light sweet crude, barrel	\$125.10	↑ 1.02
1 (dollars per euro)	\$1.5548	↓ 0.0045
per dollar	107.68	↓ 0.22

Source: USA TODAY research, MarketWatch.com

Market Trends at www.usatoday.com/money



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Bank fees get more aggressive

Today is consumers' last chance to comment to Fed

By Kathy Chu
 USA TODAY

For years, banks have charged customers hefty fees for overdrawn checking accounts. Now a growing number of institutions are charging customers such fees even before the transaction overdraws their account.

Bank of America and TD Banknorth started doing it earlier this year. SunTrust, among other banks, has been doing it for a few years.

Here's how it works: If you pay with your debit card, some banks will now charge you a fee — \$35 or more — if you don't have funds in your account at the time you sign for the purchase.

Previously, you didn't get charged this fee unless you were short of cash when the signature debit transaction cleared a few days later. That meant that while the signature debit transaction was

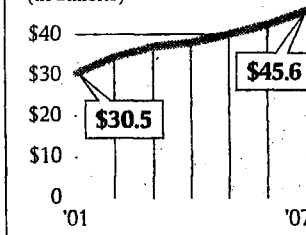
pending, consumers could often deposit money to cover any potential overdraft. (By contrast, PIN transactions typically clear immediately.)

Leslie Parrish, senior researcher at the Center for Responsible Lending, argues that this is "another way (for banks) to manipulate account holders' balances to spur more overdraft fees." Banks defend the practice, saying it provides customers with accurate information about account balances.

Banks' changes come as regulators weigh whether to crack down on overdraft practices. The Federal Reserve has proposed a rule to give customers the right to demand that banks deny transactions that overdraw their account. The Fed has also asked for comments on banks' processing of transactions from high-to-low dollar amount. This practice, according to USA TO-

Higher fees

Consumers are paying a record amount of fees for overdrawing their bank accounts. Amount of overdraft fees collected by banks, thrifts and credit unions: (in billions)



Source: Moebs Services

By Julie Snider, USA TODAY

DAY research in 2006, often triggers more overdraft fees than if banks paid the transactions in the order they were received.

The public can submit comments to the Fed about overdraft fees and credit card practices until 5 p.m. EST today, the agency says, at federalreserve.gov. Click on "Consumer Information" and then "Regulation AA" under the "Proposed Rules for Credit Cards and Overdraft Services."

In 2007, banks collected a record \$45.6 billion in overdraft fees from consumers, up 50% from 2001, according to Moebs Services, a consulting firm. To minimize fees, consumers should

keep track of their account balances and seek out small banks, which often have lower fees, says firm founder Michael Moebs. Still, he adds, as fees climb, "there's a point when consumers say enough is enough, and I think they're saying that now."